

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Republican Jobs Plan: Cut Corporate Surcharge, Eliminate Small Business Fees, Reduce Healthcare Costs**



HARTFORD – House Republicans today proposed cutting corporate taxes to spur job growth, eliminating the fees that hurt small businesses and ending healthcare mandates for employers as part of their comprehensive jobs initiative.

The Republicans said they will offer legislation to reduce corporate electricity bills by cutting utility taxes, require a jobs impact statement for all legislation and promote science, technology, engineering and math curriculums to create a new generation of workers in related careers.

Two of the key components, they said, were the elimination of the 20-percent corporate surcharge which would save companies an estimated \$45 million a year and the \$250 minimum business tax which would save nearly \$28 million.

“Those two items alone will send a clear message that after years of the majority party pushing a job crushing, anti-business agenda it is a new day in the legislature,” said Deputy Minority Leader Lawrence F. Cafero Jr., of Norwalk.

Fellow Deputy Claudia “Dolly” Powers of Greenwich added, “Republicans have consistently promoted job growth to keep us competitive in Connecticut. But we have been rebuffed by a majority party beholden to unions and special interests. That has to change.”

House Leader Robert M. Ward of Northford said employers need more flexible healthcare plans to spur economic growth and expand in Connecticut. Flexible plans would reduce costs and allow employers to provide coverage to more workers, he predicted.

“Healthcare costs are increasing at double-digit rates every year and that cannot continue. Healthcare mandates such as the ‘pay-to-play’ initiative punish our largest employers and send exactly the wrong message,” Ward said.

Republicans said the minimum \$250 filing fee for all limited liability corporations (LLCs) is unfair. They said small “mom and pop” companies pay the same fee as the state’s biggest corporations and that too must change.

“It is wrongheaded tax policy that does nothing to stimulate economic activity,” Ward said.

He added that the jobs impact statement for all proposed bills makes sense because Democrats have already said they want to make job creation a focus of the coming session.

Republicans would also roll back utility rate taxes on corporations by 42 percent. Powers and Cafero said companies look at the overall cost of doing business in a state before they decide to expand or move their operations.

The House GOP also proposed creating a recurring scholarship fund to entice students to pursue high demand careers that require skills such as information technology, engineering and science to build our economy.

The Republicans said they were encouraged by some Democratic leaders newly found public interest in perhaps actually cutting some taxes to spur job growth after years of over taxing the business sector. “I hope we can reach some accord on these issues. Public opinion is clearly on the side of reducing taxes to create jobs,” Ward said.

The state this year is expected to run a budget surplus that currently stands at an estimated \$536 million and is heading higher.

“No responsible person can suggest that those who create opportunities and employment are under taxed,” Ward said.